Railway Reservation Facility

4195. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway reservation facilities are not available for several trains at Jhalawar and Bara in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide reservation facilities at the above places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Reservation quota in six trains at Baran and two trains at Jhalawar Road is available. An analysis of utilisation of these quotas has revealed that the same is adequate to cater to the present level of traffic.

Involvement of Financial Institutions

4196. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to involve Banks and financial institutions to participate in privatisation of basic services and cell phone operation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Private companies selected for provision of Basic Telephone Service and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the country, have expressed difficulties in getting their projects funded by the banks and financial institutions for want to assignability of licences. Government is making efforts to resolve the issue.

Newspaper Price

4197. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of daily, weekly and other newspapers/journals published in the country, category-wise;

(b) whether some of them are likely to face closure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government approve of the unethical price war going on between certain newspapers in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to take any steps to prevent the evil effects of such a price war on the freedom of the press at one level and on the viability of certain newspapers on the other; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) As per records maintained in the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), the number of dailies, weeklies and other newspapers/ journals registered as on 31.12.95 is as under :

Dailies	-	4341
Weeklies	-	12946
Others	-	23191

(b) and (c). The Government do not have any information.

(d) to (f). The Government do not have any control over the pricing of newspapers.

(g) Does not arise.

Airport at Kanyakumari

4198. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to open an Airport at Kanyakumari in view of the increasing number of National and International tourists, Pilgrims and others visiting this place;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Non-Payment of Minimum Wages to Handloom Weavers

4199. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the weavers attached to Handloom Corporation at Nagpur are not getting minimum wages inspite of the decision by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also been directed by the Supreme Court to treat them as Industrial workers; and